

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission Report

September 2007

CHAPTER 2.2.5.

RABIES

Article 2.2.5.1.

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, the *incubation period* for rabies shall be 6 months, and the *infective period* in domestic carnivores starts 15 days before the onset of the first clinical signs and ends when the animal dies.

Standards for diagnostic tests and vaccines are described in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

Article 2.2.5.2.

Rabies free country

A country may be considered free from rabies when:

1. the *disease* is notifiable;
2. an effective system of *disease* surveillance is in operation;
3. all regulatory measures for the prevention and control of rabies have been implemented including effective importation procedures;
4. no *case* of indigenously acquired rabies *infection* has been confirmed in man or any animal species during the past 2 years; however, this status would not be affected by the isolation of an Australian or European Bat Lyssavirus (EBL1 or EBL2);
5. no imported *case* in carnivores has been confirmed outside a *quarantine station* for the past 6 months.

Article 2.2.5.3.

When importing from rabies free countries, *Veterinary Authorities* should require:

for domestic mammals, and wild mammals reared under confined conditions

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

1. showed no clinical sign of rabies on the day of shipment;

2. were kept since birth or for the 6 months prior to shipment in a rabies free country or were imported in conformity with the regulations stipulated in Articles 2.2.5.5., 2.2.5.6. or 2.2.5.7.

Article 2.2.5.4.

When importing from rabies free countries, *Veterinary Authorities* should require:

for wild mammals not reared under confined conditions

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

1. showed no clinical sign of rabies on the day of shipment;
2. have been captured in a rabies free country, at a sufficient distance from any infected country. The distance should be defined according to the species exported and the reservoir species in the infected country.

Article 2.2.5.5.

When importing from countries considered infected with rabies, *Veterinary Authorities* should require:

for dogs and cats

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

1. showed no clinical sign of rabies within 48 hours of shipment;

AND EITHER

2. were vaccinated against rabies:
 - a) not less than 6 months and not more than one year prior to shipment in the case of a primary vaccination, which should have been carried out when the animals were at least 3 months old;
 - b) not more than one year prior to shipment in the case of a booster vaccination;
 - c) with an inactivated virus vaccine or with a recombinant vaccine expressing the rabies virus glycoprotein and were identified by a permanent mark (including a microchip) before the vaccination (their identification number shall be stated in the certificate);
3. were subjected not less than 3 months and not more than 24 months prior to shipment to an antibody test as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Manual* with a positive result equivalent to at least 0.5 IU/ml;

OR

4. have not been vaccinated against rabies or do not meet all the conditions set out in points 1, 2 and 3 above; in such cases, the *importing country* may require the placing of the animals in a *quarantine station* located on its territory, in conformity with the conditions stipulated in its animal health legislation.

Article 2.2.5.6.

When importing from countries considered infected with rabies, *Veterinary Authorities* should require:

for domestic ruminants, equines and pigs

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

1. showed no clinical sign of rabies on the day of shipment;
2. was maintained and where no *case* of rabies was reported for at least 12 months prior to shipment.

Article 2.2.5.7.

When importing from countries considered infected with rabies, *Veterinary Authorities* should require:

for laboratory reared rodents and lagomorphs, and lagomorphs or wild mammals (other than non-human primates) reared under confined conditions

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

1. showed no clinical sign of rabies on the day of shipment;
2. were kept since birth, or for the 12 months prior to shipment, in an *establishment* where no *case* of rabies was reported for at least 12 months prior to shipment.

Article 2.2.5.8.

When importing from countries considered infected with rabies, *Veterinary Authorities* should require:

for wild mammals not belonging to the orders of primates or carnivores and not reared under confined conditions

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

1. showed no clinical sign of rabies on the day of shipment;
2. were kept in a *quarantine station* for the 6 months prior to shipment.

Article 2.2.5.9.

When importing from countries considered infected with rabies, *Veterinary Authorities* should require:

for frozen semen of dogs

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the donor animals showed no clinical sign of rabies during the 15 days following collection of the semen.